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281520Z Sep 00

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	VC-00	FRB-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/009W

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7229
INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
USDOC WASHDC
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 005515

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
LONDON FOR CGURNEY
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS
PASS USAID FOR AFR/SD - DWELLER, AFR/SA - CPALMA,
NNEWMAN, AA/AFR - VNEWTON, AND A/AID - RMCCALL

USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL 09/28/2010
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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [EAGR](#) [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL FARMER SEVERELY INJURED WITH
MACHETE.

CLASSIFIED BY DCM EARL IRVING FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND
(D).

11. (C) SUMMARY: A WHITE COMMERCIAL FARMER WAS ATTACKED
WITH A MACHETE BY A WAR VETERAN ON SEPTEMBER 26 AFTER
THE VETERAN TRIED TO STOP HIM FROM PLANTING TOBACCO.
THE FARMER SUFFERED A DEEP GASH ACROSS HIS FACE AND
NOSE, AND WAS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL, WHERE HE IS
RECOVERING FOLLOWING SURGERY. THIS INCIDENT IS
INDICATIVE OF RISING TENSIONS ON COMMERCIAL FARMS, WHERE
CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN OCCUPYING WAR VETERANS AND FARM
WORKERS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE. POLICE REACTION HAS
BEEN LESS THAN PROFESSIONAL IN MANY CASES, ALTHOUGH THE
FORCE NOW HAS ORDERS TO PREVENT FURTHER OCCUPATIONS.
THE COMING RAINY SEASON WILL BRING A NEW DIMENSION TO
FARM TENSION -- BETWEEN WAR VETERANS AND THE GOVERNMENT,
WHICH TO DATE HAS FAILED TO DELIVER ON ITS PROMISE OF
LAND TO THIS ROUGH CONSTITUENCY. END SUMMARY.

THE ATTACK

12. (C) ACCORDING TO RICHARD AMYOT OF THE COMMERCIAL
FARMERS UNION (CFU), A WHITE COMMERCIAL FARMER WAS
BRUTALLY ATTACKED BY A WAR VETERAN WITH A MACHETE ON
SEPTEMBER 26. THE ATTACK OCCURRED IN KAROI, A FARMING
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DISTRICT 200 KM NORTH OF HARARE, A REGION TORN BY LAND-
RELATED VIOLENCE SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR. AMYOT TOLD
ECONOFF THAT THE FARMER, MARSHALL ROPER, HAD BEGUN TO
PLANT TOBACCO ON HIS FARM, WHICH HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY
SO-CALLED WAR VETERANS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. TWELVE
SQUATTERS APPROACHED ROPER AND TOLD HIM HE COULD NOT
PLANT. A HEATED DISCUSSION ENSUED, AND A WAR VETERAN
WITH A MACHETE SWUNG AND STRUCK ROPER IN THE FACE,
CAUSING A DEEP GASH ACROSS HIS CHEEKS AND NOSE. ROPER
FIRED A PISTOL INTO THE AIR IN SELF-DEFENSE AFTER
COLLAPSING ON THE GROUND. THE WAR VETERANS THEN FLED.
AMYOT BELIEVES ROPER WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED IF HE HAD
NOT BEEN ARMED. THE POLICE HAVE ARRESTED FOUR PEOPLE
INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT, BUT THEY ARE REPORTEDLY STILL
LOOKING FOR ROPER'S ATTACKER. A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE
SEVERELY WOUNDED ROPER APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE
SEPTEMBER 27 EDITION OF THE INDEPENDENT "DAILY NEWS",
SPARKING WIDESPREAD DISGUST AND INDIGNATION IN HARARE.
MINISTER OF JUSTICE JONATHAN MOYO AND ZANU-PF SPOKESMAN
NATHAN SHAMUYARIRA BOTH EXPRESSED REGRET AT THE INCIDENT

AND PROMISED A FULL INVESTIGATION.

NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT

13. (C) AMYOT STATED THAT THE ATTACK ON ROPER WAS NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT. ROPER AND MANY OTHER FARMERS IN OTHER REGIONS HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS THREATS OVER THE LAST WEEKS. THE PREVIOUS WEEK, A GROUP OF COMMERCIAL FARMERS, FED UP WITH THE FARM INVASIONS, LACK OF POLICE
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INTERVENTION, AND A NEED TO BEGIN PLANTING, BLOCKED A ROAD IN THE CHIVHU FARM DISTRICT IN CENTRAL ZIMBABWE WITH A BARRIER TO KEEP WAR VETERANS AND OTHER FARM INVADERS FROM INTERRUPTING THEIR PLANTING OPERATIONS. THIS LED TO A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE FARMERS AND THEIR WORKERS ON ONE SIDE, AND, ON THE OTHER, WAR VETERANS, INCLUDING, ACCORDING TO AMYOT, PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMEN AND/OR AGENTS FROM THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (CIO). THE WAR VETERANS SHOT AT THE FARMERS WITH MILITARY-STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS AND THE FARMERS FIRED BACK, BUT NO ONE WAS HURT. POLICE ARRESTED FOUR OF THE FARMERS AND SEVERAL FARM WORKERS AND TOOK THEM TO THE LOCAL STATION. A GROUP OF COMMERCIAL FARMERS AND THEIR FARM WORKERS, NUMBERING IN THE THOUSANDS, CONVERGED ON THE STATION TO SUCCESSFULLY DEMAND THE RELEASE OF THEIR COLLEAGUES AND TO PROTEST THE GENERAL BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE AREA.

CONFUSION REIGNS REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE ZRP

14. (C) AMYOT SAID THAT POLICE REACTIONS TO INCIDENTS ON THE FARMS HAVE VARIED FROM REGION TO REGION. SENIOR

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SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL FARMER SEVERELY INJURED WITH MACHETE.

POLICE OFFICIALS, ACCORDING TO AMYOT, HAVE INFORMED THE CFU THAT THEY WILL ACTIVELY PREVENT FURTHER OCCUPATIONS AND DISRUPTIONS TO NORMAL FARMING OPERATIONS. POLICE COMMANDERS IN SOME AREAS ARE ABIDING BY THIS ORDER WHILE, IN OTHER REGIONS, THEY DO NOTHING TO STOP ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY SQUATTERS OR, IN SOME CASES, EVEN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THEM.

15. (C) COMMENT: VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN FARMERS AND WAR VETERANS MAY ESCALATE IN THE COMING WEEKS, AS FARMERS TRY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PLANTING BEFORE THE ONSET OF RAINS IN NOVEMBER, AND WAR VETERANS TRY TO BLOCK THEM. INFORMATION MINISTER MOYO AND ZANU-PF HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO CONDEMN THE ATTACK ON ROPER. THEY

REITERATED THAT NO NEW FARM OCCUPATIONS OR INTERFERENCE WITH FARMING ACTIVITIES WOULD BE PERMITTED, HOWEVER, THEY ALSO CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE OCCUPATIONS AS ON-GOING POLITICAL "DEMONSTRATIONS". THE GOZ HAS BEEN MAKING THESE PLEDGES FOR SOME TIME, BUT NEW OCCUPATIONS AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES CONTINUE, RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THE GOZ IS LOSING CONTROL OVER THE WAR VETERANS. THIS RELATIONSHIP BEARS CLOSE MONITORING AS WELL, AS THE RAINS DRAW NEARER, AND THE GOVERNMENT FINDS ITSELF WITH INCREASINGLY LESS ROOM TO MANEUVER. END COMMENT.

MCDONALD

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